

Who am I?

(Literacy Autobiography Zine Project)

By: Steven Drovie

So what's in the future? No idea, but I hope to expand my creativity and learn to love reading and writing as much as I did was when I was a kid. I also don't want to limit my creativity to just writing, as I plan to develop games, but I still believe that this creative writing class will be a huge kickstart on a path towards greater creative freedom.

Along with increasing demands for reading in school, writing began to become another task associated with English class. There were higher expectations with writing though, because of how "critical" it is to everything. However, English class only taught academic writing, which means there is a wrong answer ... but writing shouldn't have a wrong answer. Needing to meet the expectations of parents, teachers, and college I followed the guidelines set out in front of me in order to best succeed.

Reading for school was a chore compared to reading for fun. It went from reading books you liked in class to drowning in textbooks with an annotation quota to meet. School sucked out the enjoyment of reading by turning it into a task, and it left me so dried up that I rarely read on my own from middle school on. Even now, I read occasionally, but assigned reading take precedence and when I'm done I have no desire to read more.

In Elementary school, I wrote a sci-fi adventure story about a hero named Max, and a sidekick who I can't remember. I remember being really into creating it, writing the story and drawing the pictures to go with the scenes. When it was showcased, one parent said it was really good, but for some reason I questioned his judgment of what was good quality, being that I was only just a kid and there were clearly better things out there.

My Dad was given *The Night Angel Trilogy* as a gift for the holiday's and it sounded like an extremely interesting story, and I really wanted to read it as well. However, he said it was too graphic for me at my current age, so I had to wait two or so years. It was well worth the wait. The main character is cool, but his mentor is a total badass. These were also the largest books I had read at the time, and still might be.

In the 5th grade at my second Elementary school, our class listened and read along to the entire *Percy Jackson and The Olympians* series by Rick Riordan. Being excited to go to class and read was a surreal experience for school. I ended up falling in love with the characters and their humor. To this day I continue to read the new Rick Riordan series.

BOOK 1
THE RUINS OF
GORLAN

Another book series that I got into at a young age was the *Ranger's Apprentice* series by John Flanagan. The series is about a young boy named Will, who becomes a Ranger by being an apprentice to Halt. I ended up reading this story with my Dad, so I really felt like Will, with my Dad being Halt. The series is witty and exciting, highly recommended

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ESCAPE THE

